

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Mitsuo OCHI, et al.

Filed: February 27, 2002

Continuation In Part Application of  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/934,581

Group Art Unit: 3736 (Parent)

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

1017 U.S. PTO  
10/083583  
02/27/02

#2

For: METHOD FOR MEASURING STIFFNESS OF CULTURED TISSUE, FOR DETERMINING  
TRANSPLANT COMPATIBILITY FOR QUALITY CONTROL AND FOR PREPARING  
TRANSPLANT-COMPATIBLE CULTURED TISSUE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98

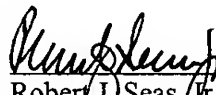
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form which are all the references of record in parent application No. 09/934,581. Applicant is not submitting duplicate copies of these references but requests that they be listed on the face of any patent granted on the above application. (See 37 CFR §1.98(d)). Copies of any cited copending applications, if not previously submitted, are being submitted herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: February 27, 2002

Attorney Docket No.: Q68602

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| Substitute for form 1449 A & B/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |   |                  |   | <i>Complete if Known</i> |  |
|  |   |                  |   | Application Number       |  |
|  |   |                  |   | Confirmation Number      |  |
|  |   |                  |   | Filing Date              |  |
|  |   |                  |   | First Named Inventor     |  |
|  |   |                  |   | Art Unit                 |  |
| Examiner Name  |   | Not Yet Assigned |   |                          |  |
| Attorney Docket Number   |   | Q68602           |   |                          |  |
| Sheet  | 1 | of               | 1 |                          |  |



| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |                 |                                      |                                |   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number |                                      | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
|                       |                          | Number          | Kind Code <sup>2</sup><br>(if known) |                                |   |
|                       |                          | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                       |                          | US              |                                      |                                |   |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |                              |                     |                                      |                                |  |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document      |                     |                                      | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                          | Country<br>Code <sup>3</sup> | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup><br>(if known) |                                |  |                          |
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| OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                          |  |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*                             | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
|   |                          | <i>Development of Micro Tactile Sensor for Detecting Stiffness of Cell Using Piezoelectric Element and Applications</i> , Technical Digest of the 14 <sup>th</sup> Sensor Symposium, 1996  |                          |
|   |                          | <i>Measurement of Elastic Properties of Ovum Cell Using New Tactile Sensor</i> , Technical Digest of the 15 <sup>th</sup> Sensor Symposium, 1997   |                          |
|   |                          | <i>New Tactile Sensor Like the Human Hand and Its Application</i> , Sensors and Actuators A., 1992   |                          |
|   |                          | <i>A New Type of Tactile Sensor For Detecting The Hardness of Objects Like the Human Hand</i> , Tissue Engineering, 1989   |                          |
|   |                          | <i>New Tactile Sensor for Sensing Hardness Like the Human Hand and Its Applications For Living Tissue</i> , Technical Digest of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Sensor Symposium, 1990   |                          |
|   |                          | [2-PE-10] <i>Changes in Stiffness of Gel With Embedding of a Chondrocyte, Transplanted to Injury Model of the Epiphyseal Plate Proximal to the Tibia</i> (partially translated), J. Jpn. Orthop. Assoc. 74(8), 2000  |                          |
|   |                          | [2-E-22] <i>Culture Methods for Mixture of Chondrocytes and Mesenchymal Stem Cells Embedded in Atelocollagen Gel</i> , J. Jpn. Orthop. Assoc. 74(8), 2000  |                          |

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|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.